

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 16 with the following amended paragraph:**

An electrolytic cell 21 in Fig. 2 comprises an anode 41 made of expanded mesh or the like, a sheet-like oxygen gas cathode 42 and a membrane 43 which separates an anode chamber and a cathode chamber from each other as shown in Fig. 2. A catholyte defined by the oxygen gas cathode 42 and the membrane 43 is filled with a particulate solid acid catalyst such as Nafion resin or a fibrous catalyst material. The distance between the electrodes is kept to a range of from 1 to 50 mm. In Fig. 2, the reference numerals 45, 46 and 47 indicate an anode gas inlet, a catholyte inlet and a catholyte outlet, respectively.